

Impact factsheet Finland

From ratification to
the end of the baseline
evaluation procedure
under the **Council of
Europe Convention
on preventing and
combating violence
against women and
domestic violence**

2015 Ratification

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by
Finland on 17 April 2015.

2019 Baseline evaluation report by GREVIO

Findings made by GREVIO on the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Finland, including on the need for comprehensive policies based on a gender perspective and with a view to benefiting all women and girls, an increase in financial resources, data collection, training of professionals, especially law enforcement officers, and greater support for women's NGOs and specialist services. Proposal to amend the criminal offences of stalking, sexual violence, forced marriage and sexual harassment and to ensure the voluntary nature of any mediation in domestic violence cases. Assessment made on the basis of the Finnish Government's state report, non-governmental organisation (NGOs) shadow reporting and an evaluation visit.

2019 Comments from the Finnish Government

Comments from the authorities on GREVIO's assessment.



Signature by Finland, 11 May 2011

2020 Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

Adoption of thirteen recommendations based on GREVIO's findings for further action regarding the application of non-discrimination and a gendered perspective in the implementation of the convention, development of a long-term co-ordinated plan/strategy on violence against women, provision of appropriate human and financial resources, recognition and support to all non-governmental actors involved in preventing and combating violence against women, strengthening the national co-ordinating body, development of data categories, systematic and mandatory training of professionals, determination of custody and visitation rights after domestic violence, the prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes, and the implementation of protection orders.

2023 Government reporting on progress made

Information on progress made in Finland between 2019 and 2023 in relation to the recommendations received.

More information on Finland's ongoing progress in implementing the Istanbul Convention is available at coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/finland

2023 Committee of the Parties' conclusions

Adoption of conclusions on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, confirming progress made regarding access to support services for women with disabilities and Roma women, the adoption of a national action plan and the monitoring of its implementation, the allocation of financial resources, the strengthening of the legal framework protecting women victims of sexual violence and forced marriage, improvements in risk assessment and emergency barring orders for victims of domestic violence. Further measures encouraged in relation to addressing forms of violence beyond domestic violence, systemic and disaggregated data collection and the prohibition of mediation in cases of repeated domestic violence.

2025 Final implementation report from the Finnish Government

Report detailing the measures taken in response to the conclusions, especially regarding the need to address all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, data collection and prohibit mediation in criminal law proceedings concerning domestic violence.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Over the course of the baseline evaluation procedure, Finland aligned its Criminal Code with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention by introducing a **consent-based definition of rape** and by criminalising female genital mutilation and **forced marriage**. The **Marriage Act** now allows for the dissolution of forced marriages by annulment and the **Act on Child Custody and Right of Access**, introduces the obligation for judges to take into consideration a history of domestic violence when deciding on custody and visitation rights and criminal law mediation is prohibited in cases of domestic violence. The **legal framework governing emergency barring orders** allowing Police officers were vested with the power to decide *ex officio* to remove the perpetrator from the shared residence, and electronic monitoring of perpetrators may be ordered in serious cases.



The **Action Plan for Combatting Violence against Women** was adopted, with measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and, sexual violence, violence committed in the name of so-called "honour", and online and technology facilitated violence against women. **Funding** was allocated for its implementation as well as for the implementation of legal reforms such as the reform of sexual offences, and the reform of the system of protection orders. The Ombudsperson was given the task to evaluate policies on violence against women.



The **access to support services** was improved by expanding the **number of sexual violence support services** and reducing barriers for women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. A disability access audit was carried out, co-operation with civil society organisations working with Roma women established and funding provided to domestic violence shelters and other services.